

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 130063
ORIGIN INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SIG-01
MMO-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02 ACDA-07
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /093 R

DRAFTED BY INR/RSE/SOV:JPARKER:LM
APPROVED BY INR/RSE:PKCOOK
INR/RPM:TSVAVAGE
EUR/SOV:MLEVITSKY
INR/OD:RKIRK

-----062213Z 088885 /64

O 062145Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL MUNICH IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE
USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 130063

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, UR

SUBJECT: NEW DRAFT SOVIET CONSTITUTION

REF: MOSCOW 7916
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 130063

FOR USNATO: MISSION AUTHORIZED TO CIRCULATE TEXT FOR DIS-
CUSSION AT POLADS

1. FOLLOWING IS INR'S PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF THE NEW
DRAFT SOVIET CONSTITUTION WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN "PRAVDA",
ON JUNE 4.

BEGIN SUMMARY: INR AGREES WITH EMBASSY MOSCOW THAT THE NEW DRAFT CONSTITUTION PUBLISHED JUNE 4 IS DESIGNED TO PROJECT THE IMAGE OF THE USSR AS A MATURE, DEVELOPED, CONFIDENT SOCIALIST SOCIETY. IT CONTAINS PROVISIONS FURTHER FUELING SPECULATION THAT BREZHNEV WILL TAKE OVER THE PRESIDENCY. THE DRAFT EXTOLS BASIC CIVIL RIGHTS, BUT HEAVILY SUBORDINATES THEM TO DUTIES TO THE STATE. THE LEADING ROLE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY IS ALSO MADE MORE EXPLICIT THAN IN THE 1936 CONSTITUTION. END SUMMARY.

BEGIN TEXT: THE DRAFT ESTABLISHES FOR THE FIRST TIME THE POSITION OF FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE

USSR SUPREME SOVIET, PRESUMABLY TO RELIEVE THE PRESIDENT OF HIS MANY PROTOCOLARY BURDENS. IT THUS REINFORCES THE FEELING THAT BREZHNEV WILL TAKE OVER THE PRESIDENCY FROM PODGORNYY, DROPPED FROM THE POLITBURO LAST MONTH. WERE HE TO DO SO, THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S PRESTIGE WOULD BE ENHANCED AND HIS TRAVELS ABROAD AND RIGHT TO SIGN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS SIMPLIFIED.

THE NEW CHAPTER ON FOREIGN POLICY AFFIRMS THE PRINCIPLE OF "PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE" AND THE "LENINIST POLICY OF PEACE," BUT MAKES NO MENTION OF DETENTE PER SE. IT DOES NOT REPEAT BREZHNEV'S REMARKS AT THE MAY 24TH CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM THAT "CAPITALIST ENCIRCLEMENT OF THE USSR EXISTS NO MORE" AND THAT A "REAL POSSIBILITY HAS APPEARED OF PREVENTING A NEW WORLD WAR." ALTHOUGH IT ENSHRINES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 130063

THE TEN PRINCIPLES OF THE HELSINKI CSCE FINAL ACT AS THE BASIS OF SOVIET RELATIONS WITH OTHER STATES, YET ANOTHER CHAPTER ON THE "DEFENSE OF THE SOCIALIST MOTHERLAND" ASSURES ONE AND ALL THAT THE STATE SHALL "EQUIP THE ARMED FORCES OF THE USSR WITH EVERYTHING NECESSARY." BASIC CIVIL RIGHTS ARE LAVISHLY ELABORATED. THE LENINIST-STALINIST "DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT" HAS GIVEN WAY TO THE "STATE OF THE WHOLE PEOPLE." NEVERTHELESS, CIVIL RIGHTS ARE CLEARLY TO BE SUBORDINATED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE STATE:

--AS IN THE 1936 VERSION, CITIZENS ARE GUARANTEED FREEDOMS SUCH AS THOSE OF SPEECH, PRESS, AND ASSEMBLY. UNLIKE 1936, SUCH RIGHTS ARE REPEATEDLY MADE SECONDARY TO THE NEEDS OF THE STATE AND CITIZENS ARE ENJOINED "TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE STRENGTHENING OF ITS MIGHT AND PRESTIGE."

--PROVISOS GOVERNING RELIGION REMAIN LARGELY UNCHANGED

FROM 1936.

AS WAS EXPECTED, THE DRAFT FURTHER CODIFIES AND ELABORATES ON THE LEADING ROLE OF THE PARTY -- MENTIONED ONLY BRIEFLY IN THE 1936 CONSTITUTION. THE CPSU IS DESCRIBED AS "THE LEADING AND GUIDING FORCE OF SOVIET SOCIETY AND THE NUCLEUS OF ITS POLITICAL SYSTEM, OF ALL STATE AND PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS." IN A FURTHER EXPANSION OF THE PRINCIPLES GOVERNING PARTY ORGANIZATIONS, DEMOCRATIC CENTRALISM IS NOW STATED TO BE THE OPERATING PHILOSOPHY FOR ALL GOVERNMENT ORGANS.

THE DRAFT DOES NOT INTRODUCE ANY MAJOR CHANGES IN THE FEDERAL STRUCTURE OF THE SOVIET STATE OR IN ITS RULING BODIES, AND THE RIGHT OF SECESSION OF UNION-REPUBLICS IS MAINTAINED. HOWEVER,

--THE DEFENSE COUNCIL, OF WHICH BREZHNEV IS CHAIRMAN, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 STATE 130063

GAINS CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION, AS DOES THE PRESID- IUM OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, HEADED BY KOSYGIN.

--ELECTIONS TO THE SUPREME SOVIET WILL TAKE PLACE EVERY FIVE YEARS INSTEAD OF FOUR, PROBABLY TO COINCIDE WITH THE CONVOCAION OF PARTY CONGRESSES AND THE PROMULGATION OF FIVE-YEAR PLANS.

THE DRAFT DOES NOT PROMISE RADICAL INNOVATION IN THE POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE AREA OF NATIONALITY RELATIONS. WHILE IT PROMISES THE "FURTHER DEVELOPMENT AND DRAWING TOGETHER" OF THE MANY NATIONALITIES, IT REGISTERS INCREASED STRESS ON THE CONCEPT OF THE "SOVIET PEOPLE" AND SOCIAL HOMOGENEITY, THUS SUPPLEMENTING THE REGIME'S CURRENT EFFORTS AT CULTURAL RUSSIFICATION.

IN GENERAL, ASIDE FROM THE PROVISOS AFFECTING THE TOP POLITICAL LEADERSHIP, THE NEW LANGUAGE IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL DRAFT SEEMS LARGELY TO CODIFY EXISTING SOVIET LAW AND ADMINISTRATIVE PRACTICES. AS SUCH, IT IS NOT INNOVATIVE. NEVERTHELESS, MILLIONS OF WORDS WILL BE EXPENDED ON IT BEFORE IT IS "APPROVED" NEXT OCTOBER IN TIME FOR THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTION. END TEXT VANCE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DISCLOSURE, TEXT, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE130063
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JPARKER:LM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770201-0651
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770686/aaaacxlv.tel
Line Count: 163
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 832f3984-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN INR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MOSCOW 7916
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2259220
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW DRAFT SOVIET CONSTITUTION
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, UR
To: EUR POSTS LENINGRAD MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/832f3984-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009